DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 395 094 UD 030 940

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TITLE Family Focused. Stories from Family Resource Centers in Jefferson County, Kentucky.
INSTITUTION Kentucky Youth Advocates, Inc., Louisville.
SPONS AGENCY Metro United Way, Louisville, KY.; National Council of Jewish Women--Louisville Section, KY.
PUB DATE Aug 94
NOTE 106p.
AVAILABLE FROM Kentucky Youth Advocates, Inc., 2034 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville, KY 40206.
PUB TYPE Reports - Evaluative/Feasibility (142)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Ancillary School Services; Child Caregivers; Counties; Day Care; Elementary Secondary Education; *Family Programs; *Health Services; *High Risk Students; *Integrated Services; Program Implementation; State Legislation; *Urban Areas
IDENTIFIERS *Kentucky (Jefferson County); Kentucky Education Reform Act 1990

ABSTRACT

In 1990 the Kentucky General Assembly passed one of the most sweeping educational reform measures in the nation's history. Among the provisions of the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) was the creation of family resource and youth services centers in or near schools with large numbers of at-risk students. Family resource centers are primarily for children in elementary grades and their families, and youth services centers are for middle and high school students and their families. Centers are required to offer child care, family training opportunities, monitoring of child development, support and training for child care providers, and health services or referrals to health services. Kentucky Youth Advocates studied the family resource centers in primarily urban Jefferson County, the state's most populous county, to describe the roles and progress of the centers. As of December 1993, 43 of the county's 78 elementary schools were eligible for centers, and by January 1994, 32 had been opened. The anecdotal accounts presented from 17 family resource centers show the value of these centers, each of which reflects the personality and creativity of its coordinator. Appendixes list the county centers, and contain a map of county elementary schools. (SLD)

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